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Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its 2005 annual session

(6-10 June 2005)*

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I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

1. The President welcomed the new Executive Director, Ms. Ann M. Veneman, saying that she took the helm of UNICEF as it developed its new medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2006-2009, accelerated efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals and proceeded with United Nations reform. UNICEF and its partners continued to make great strides in achieving tangible results for children. The Executive Board had much work to do in guiding this process, and it was encouraging to see its increasingly interactive deliberations.

2. The Executive Director thanked the members of the Board for their support for her appointment as the fifth Executive Director of UNICEF. One of the most important challenges was supporting achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. For UNICEF, this meant a focus on the most marginalized children and the poorest families; participation by people in their own development; results that were shared equally between genders; and government institutions and service providers that were accountable to the people they served. Collaboration was critical to these efforts, as she had seen during her first field visit as Executive Director, to southern Africa. She had travelled with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), who is the Secretary-General's humanitarian envoy for that region, and the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The trip had underlined how United Nations agencies could complement each other in supporting Governments and other partners to address the challenges facing that region.

3. The Executive Director also highlighted the Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) programme as a model, noting the importance of an integrated approach to child survival. She said that UNICEF would accelerate its engagement with United Nations reform, prioritize national capacity-building and scaling-up of "what works" and adopt a results-based focus. She also emphasized the importance of human rights and gender equality.

4. The representatives of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Peru and Senegal, on behalf of their respective regional groups, welcomed Ms. Veneman and said they looked forward to working with her on the many important challenges facing UNICEF.

B. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Executive Board adopted the agenda, timetable and organization of work (E/ICEF/2005/7 and Corr.1) for the session.

6. In accordance with rule 50.2 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that credentials had been submitted by 61 observer delegations, 3 United Nations bodies, 8 National Committees for UNICEF, 6 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Annual report of the Executive Director

7. The Executive Board had before it the annual report of the Executive Director, on progress and achievements against the MTSP for 2002-2005 (E/ICEF/2005/6), which was introduced by Ms. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director.

8. Delegations requested that the secretariat improve future reports through deeper analysis of the information presented, particularly through greater use of indicators and country data; comparisons of progress with previous years or other measures such as the Millennium Development Goals; indications of which countries are lagging behind; and presentation of proposals on how to address challenges. More analysis of constraints to achievement of the goals of the MTSP 2002-2005 should also be presented in next year's report. The secretariat was also requested to ensure that the next MTSP has a more systematic focus on specific and measurable targets for annual reporting. The secretariat replied that more extensive reporting and analysis would be provided in the next annual report.

9. A delegation asked for analysis in areas other than the Millennium Development Goals, for example the goals of *A World Fit for Children* or the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Speakers also requested clearer analysis of how gender was being mainstreamed in the work of UNICEF. On United Nations reform, delegations asked for more information on joint programming, joint premises and the UNICEF contribution to monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. A delegation suggested an evaluation of whether UNICEF was on course in the reform processes. The secretariat responded that UNICEF was extremely active in monitoring of the Goals, with responsibility or co-responsibility for global monitoring of 18 indicators. UNICEF also contributed to system-wide monitoring mechanisms through support to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and *DevInfo*. Joint programming was also being extended across countries and themes.

10. Several delegations supported the UNICEF focus on poverty and the organization's increasing engagement with poverty reduction strategies (PRSs). They asked the secretariat to continue to strengthen its participation in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), PRSs and the preparation and monitoring of national budgets. It was suggested that targets in sub-Saharan Africa should be met without decreasing the emphasis on countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami. The secretariat said that UNICEF was maintaining its strong focus on poverty, with some two thirds of total expenditures allocated to least developed countries in 2004.

11. Delegations expressed concern about the deteriorating proportion of regular resources in relation to other resources, despite the increase in total funding. The secretariat reiterated the importance of increased regular resources to the organization. To questions on the source and allocation of thematic funding, the secretariat said that early childhood development (ECD) and child protection had yet to attract significant levels of thematic funding. The secretariat would develop a new plan for thematic funding to support implementation of the next MTSP.

12. Several speakers called for strengthening of UNICEF emergency response systems. The UNICEF response to the tsunami had been rapid and effective, as had

the response to the tragedy in Beslan, but concerns remained about the response in the Darfur region of the Sudan, particularly about the time required for deployment and recruitment of staff and the support provided for water and sanitation. Delegations requested further information on how programmatic weaknesses in Darfur were being addressed and how lessons learned from the tsunami crisis would be used. The secretariat said that it would issue a report on the tsunami by July 2005. Targets and performance indicators relating to the Core Corporate Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs) were also being developed. Problems in Darfur were due to the initial use of temporary staff and the scale and evolution of the humanitarian crisis. UNICEF was working to reduce the time needed for deploying staff and would review procedures to strengthen efficiency and accountability. In addition, more resources were needed for less visible emergencies, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia.

13. In ECD, delegations requested information on progress in maternal health, the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, anaemia reduction and the promotion of birth registration. Questions were also raised about the reasons for the low coverage of national ECD plans. The secretariat said that UNICEF currently was working with some 50 countries to support new or revised national ECD policies, including the ACSD initiative in West Africa.

14. Delegations expressed concerns about the possibility of higher costs for immunization because of higher prices of new vaccines and encouraged UNICEF to continue its efforts to increase access to affordable vaccines. Delegations also expressed concern about the resurgence of polio. The secretariat said that immunization remained a high priority. Beyond its direct financial contribution, UNICEF also provided procurement services for immunization and worked with such mechanisms as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Asked why over 29 million children had not been immunized, the secretariat said that this was mainly because of conflict, HIV/AIDS, poverty and difficulties faced by some large African countries.

15. On girls' education, a delegation said that there should be a greater shift from a project to a programme approach, and increased focus on capacity-building and policy development. Speakers also requested more information on how UNICEF was addressing disability and improving learning outcomes.

16. Some delegations said that spending on HIV/AIDS was too low and suggested that the level be increased from 9 to 14 per cent of total programme expenditure. The secretariat replied that UNICEF spent 13 per cent of its total regular resources expenditures on HIV/AIDS in 2004. The percentage of other resources was considerably lower and reduced the overall percentage. More resources would be available through the Global Campaign, which was projected to raise up to $1 billion over five years. Delegations also said that UNICEF should ensure increased access to HIV prophylaxis, draw more attention to orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and strengthen psychosocial programmes for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. A delegation expressed concern that the new UNICEF Global Campaign on HIV/AIDS and Children would promote vertical interventions rather than strengthening coordination mechanisms at the country level.

17. Delegations urged that increased attention be paid to children affected by armed conflict, child trafficking, violence against children, sexual exploitation, rehabilitation of child victims and childhood disability. A speaker requested

information on implementation of legislative reforms that had been supported by UNICEF. Another delegation encouraged UNICEF to undertake stronger advocacy for child protection in PRSs. The secretariat said that overall, UNICEF work in child protection was improving, indicators had been developed and more work was being done to support children with disability.

18. Concluding the discussion, the Executive Director said there was a need for more integrated approaches and strengthened partnerships, which would advance the cause of children and the Millennium Development Goals. (See chapter III, decision 2005/10 for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

B. Review of the draft MTSP for 2006-2009

19. The President reminded delegations that the draft MTSP for 2006-2009 was available in English only and was presented to the Board for discussion and comments. It would be revised and shortened, and presented to the Board at the second regular session in all languages.

20. The draft was introduced by Kul Gautam, Deputy Executive Director, who highlighted its guiding principles and links to the Millennium Declaration and its Goals, and with other international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the General Assembly Special Session on Children. The plan was organized into five focus areas: (a) young child survival and development; (b) basic education and gender equality; (c) HIV/AIDS and children; (d) child protection; and (e) "first call" for children in policies, laws and budgets.

21. Delegations welcomed the participatory process used to develop the draft MTSP, which took account of many of the comments provided during informal consultations. Speakers endorsed the importance of focusing on the child-related Millennium goals and related results. Delegations welcomed the centrality of the United Nations reform process to the plan, and suggested that UNICEF clarify in the plan its relationship and its joint programming work with agencies such as UNAIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO).

22. Delegations endorsed the intended use of the plan as an overall guiding framework for UNICEF, to be adapted to specific conditions and priorities at the country level. The plan should also have flexibility for addressing regional and subregional issues. Some delegations endorsed the life-cycle approach and some asked for a more systematic use of the human rights-based approach to programming in all focus areas. The secretariat was requested to preserve the country-based programming approach, the close working relationship of UNICEF with Governments and civil society and the organization's trusted brand and identity.

23. Several delegates strongly endorsed the national context for the focus areas, including such instruments as sector-wide approaches (SWAps), PRSs and national budgets. The emphasis on capacity-building was also commended, although more specific targets were needed for monitoring progress in this area. Baseline data

should be provided where possible for the organizational targets in the results matrix.

24. A delegation asked how country offices would be guided in programme development and suggested an assessment of the risks and challenges facing the implementation of the plan. It was also suggested that the word "intervention" be avoided or clarified due to its possibly negative connotations.

25. Several delegations welcomed the use of key performance indicators to enable UNICEF to better monitor its organizational efficiency. Other speakers suggested a stronger articulation of the links between the focus areas and resources distribution. The focus on sub-Saharan Africa should be maintained, but there must also be support for programmes in Asia, home to two thirds of the world's poor.

26. One speaker commended the intended coverage of industrialized countries in the plan, and suggested that the possible Business Advisory Council for public-private partnerships involve the National Committees for UNICEF. It was also stressed that all countries and situations should be covered by the MTSP, based on specific needs and the need to address disparities, social exclusion and the most marginalized groups. UNICEF should also enhance its research function to be a leading contributor to policies relating to children.

27. Several delegations welcomed the focus on gender issues in the focus area on basic education and gender equality but also wanted clear mainstreaming of gender concerns in the other areas. A speaker requested inclusion of the rights of women and the need to address violence against women.

28. Many delegates emphasized the need for UNICEF to ensure effective responses to children in emergencies. UNICEF should strengthen its needs-assessment tools and response to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and should coordinate effectively with other United Nations agencies. Several delegations endorsed the mainstreaming of emergency response in the focus areas, but one delegation suggested that emergency response be a separate focus area. A delegation cautioned UNICEF against going beyond the CCCs.

29. Some delegations were pleased with the emphasis on families, but others asked for a broader definition of the family, including single-headed households and guardians, and clearer attention to children without primary caregivers.

30. Regarding focus area 1, young child survival and development, greater attention was needed on child survival, with more guidance given to countries not among the 60 priority countries with high child mortality rates. The plan should also present a deeper analysis of barriers to reducing under-five mortality; emphasize progress made in immunization, particularly measles, polio eradication and work with GAVI; and refer to WHO-UNICEF global immunization strategy. A speaker welcomed the consolidation of immunization "plus" and ECD into one focus area, but said a holistic approach to ECD was needed. Clear strategies on maternal mortality and morbidity reduction should be also reflected. It was also stated that the amount of resources devoted to this focus area should not be reduced vis-à-vis the total amount allocated to ECD and immunization "plus" under the previous plan.

31. Several delegates supported the multi-faceted approach of the focus area, including the focus on high-impact health and nutrition interventions, water and environmental sanitation and dracunculiasis eradication. More attention should be

given to unintentional injuries; intergenerational approaches to nutrition, including maternal nutrition; breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding; and social, psychological and emotional issues.

32. Regarding focus area 2, basic education and gender equality, several delegations welcomed the role of UNICEF in global initiatives to reach all children with basic education. However, questions were asked about partners' contributions to planned targets; quality education; national ownership; institutional development of educational systems in the context of SWAps; excluded children, minorities, and children with disabilities; and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative.

33. Regarding focus area 3, HIV/AIDS and children, speakers were pleased with the emphasis on treatment and prevention of new infections in children and adolescents. UNICEF should work closely with UNAIDS and WHO at the country level. Initiatives to address reproductive health and education should be included in the text as well as in the results matrix, in accordance with the outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development. Some delegations urged that a larger proportion of regular resources should be allocated to this focus area. There should be a greater focus on adolescents and further emphasis on the provision of information to young people, youth participation, sexual education and peer education in the context of sexual and reproductive health. The prevention of HIV/AIDS in the context of humanitarian crisis and post-conflict transition should also be considered. Support to OVCs required more emphasis and continued UNICEF leadership across all focus areas of the plan.

34. On focus area 4, child protection, a speaker expressed appreciation for the use of the protective environment framework, the reference to elimination of female genital cutting and the work of the Innocenti Research Centre. Delegations asked for more emphasis on addressing disabilities, child trafficking and the monitoring of children in armed conflict. A more comprehensive approach to child protection, clearer targets and higher resource levels need to be reflected in the plan, which should also address the needs of traumatized children in middle-income countries. Negligence, prevention of child labour and abandonment of children and internally displaced persons should also be covered.

35. Speakers were pleased with the establishment of focus area 5, "first call" for children in policies, laws and budgets, and its intention to promote and assess progress on children's rights and focus on UNICEF engagement with PRSs and SWAps. It was important to support capacity development for national policy formulation. Some speakers said that the overall advocacy role of UNICEF should be more strongly emphasized, and there was agreement that the new focus area more clearly and strategically articulated UNICEF activities under this heading. Further, both advocacy and partnerships in specific sectors should be clearly reflected in other parts of the plan.

36. The secretariat agreed to take note of the comments in the next version of the MTSP. There was general agreement with the five proposed focus areas, and the secretariat would consider the suggestions to change their titles; the MTSP would focus on the Millennium goals but go beyond the goals where national circumstances made this possible; the plan would focus on support to marginalized populations, in accordance with the human rights-based approach; gender mainstreaming would be strengthened across the new plan; there would be an appropriate balance between policy advocacy and support to programme

implementation; and the linkages between the different focus areas would be ensured.

C. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

Draft country programme documents (CPDs)

Overview

37. In an overview, the Director, Programme Division, said that the 20 draft CPDs had been developed jointly by Governments and UNICEF and aligned with national priorities, and that 16 of the 20 countries had prepared an UNDAF. A rights-based approach was evident in the majority of the draft documents.

38. Delegations expressed appreciation that the draft CPDs pinpointed the role of UNICEF; referred to national policies, the UNDAF and international commitments; and used results-based management. Asked if the respective UNDAFs, especially the results matrices, could be provided together with the draft CPDs, the secretariat said it would make them available if possible. It was also suggested that: joint programming and joint programmes be seriously considered in all country programmes; there be greater emphasis on gender, including disaggregation of data; the rights-based approach be more evident; CPDs discuss the concrete constraints to programme implementation; and there be greater emphasis on national capacity-building.

Eastern and Southern Africa

39. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPDs for Namibia and Uganda (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.1 and Corr.1 and E/ICEF/2005/P/L.2), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

40. Delegations commended UNICEF for (a) the relevant, concise and clear situation analyses of the draft CPDs; (b) programme interventions that reflected the priorities of UNICEF, a focus on marginalized groups and regions, and conformity to national priorities; (c) CPDs that reflected broad-based consultations, the participation of stakeholders and harmonization with the priorities and processes of Governments and other United Nations agencies; and (d) the high quality of UNICEF staff in the field.

41. The representative of **Namibia** noted the rapid deterioration of the situation of children and women in the country, owing to HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, declining capacity to deliver services and the legacy of apartheid, which resulted in wide income disparities. Pointing to the declining official development assistance in her country, she appealed to the international community for more support. Other delegations said that UNICEF was well placed to address these threats, but more attention should be paid to national capacity-building and to the quality of education, especially in view of the high attrition rate of teachers due to HIV/AIDS.

42. The representative of **Uganda** described the massive internal population displacements due to the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda and described the Government's response to alleviate the suffering. He urged donors to increase their assistance to meet the needs of children, especially those orphaned by HIV/AIDS and affected by the conflict. Several delegations

urged UNICEF to advocate more strongly on behalf of children and women in the northern districts, given the widespread abuse and atrocities. UNICEF should ensure sufficient capacity for programme delivery and play a stronger role in supporting NGOs and community-based organizations, especially in the area of rehabilitation and reintegration of formerly abducted children.

43. The Regional Director explained that although support to capacity-building remained a major challenge, UNICEF was taking steps in this area and was also working to increase the involvement of civil society in service delivery at the subnational level. UNICEF was seriously engaged with Governments on child rights and advocated for rights with States and non-State parties, publicizing issues of abuse and atrocities.

West and Central Africa

44. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPDs for Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.3-E/ICEF/2005/P/L.5), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

45. The representatives of Burkina Faso and Ghana stated that the programmes in their respective countries were consistent with national policies and priorities, and particularly aligned with the PRSs. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the work of UNICEF in their countries and underlined their Government's commitment to children.

46. On the draft CPD for **Burkina Faso**, speakers highlighted the high quality of the UNICEF programme, especially in the areas of child survival, child protection and girls' education. Speakers underlined the success in girls' enrolment, and in the fight against child labour and trafficking and female genital mutilation. Another delegation said UNICEF could achieve greater impact through policy dialogue with the Government and harmonization and closer coordination with other United Nations agencies and donors. A delegation said that efforts should be made to integrate "satellite schools" into the education mainstream.

47. On the draft CPD for **Ghana**, delegations commented positively on the successful approach to the ACSD programme in the Upper East region, which had contributed to a significant reduction in child and infant mortality while national rates stagnated. Support was expressed for scaling up this strategy across the country, including its mainstreaming and full integration into the programme of work of the Ministry of Health. Appreciation was also expressed for UNICEF efforts to help the Government develop a social protection strategy. Equal support was noted for UNICEF work in girls' education, putting gender equality within reach by the end of 2005 or during 2006.

48. A delegation praised UNICEF for its humanitarian work in **Liberia**, especially in education, child protection and water and sanitation, and encouraged UNICEF to work more closely with other United Nations agencies.

East Asia and the Pacific

49. The Executive Board had before it the five draft CPDs for Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.7-E/ICEF/2005/P/L.10 and Corr.1, and E/ICEF/2005/P/L.11), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

50. The representative of **Cambodia** commended UNICEF for the inclusion of all stakeholders in the programme and pledged his Government's commitment to children. Other delegations found that the programme was consistent with the country's development needs; integrated a rights perspective; reflected how past cooperation made current programme interventions more effective; and used results- and evidenced-based models. More attention, however, should be given to child protection issues, especially child trafficking. It was recommended that the country programme extend coverage of national programmes beyond the current six provinces; address the quality of services, including through the development of monitoring and evaluation plans; strengthen the partnership with the iodine deficiency disorders programme; and expand the vitamin A programme. The Regional Director responded that UNICEF would support nationwide implementation of critical child survival programmes. The concentration on six provinces was meant to model initiatives for decentralization and inter-sectoral convergence. Monitoring was important and lessons learned at the provincial level would be documented for national policy and standards-setting.

51. The representative of **Myanmar** expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation with UNICEF over five decades, most recently in the preparation of the new country programme and in the prevention of child trafficking and recruitment of child soldiers. Other delegations expressed appreciation for the focus on health and nutrition, given high infant mortality rates. However, the CPD did not address the rights of children of ethnic minorities, including children of IDPs living in the border region of Thailand, and of child soldiers. Information was requested on the work of UNICEF with civil society. The Regional Director responded that UNICEF would expand its subnational presence, targeting the most vulnerable areas, while working with local communities, community-based organizations and civil society as it had in the tsunami response.

52. The representative of **Timor-Leste** expressed gratitude to UNICEF for the assistance given to his young country, especially in establishing a national commission for child rights. Delegations welcomed country programmes' links with the Millennium Development Goals and national development plan and the focus on strengthening capacities in health and education. Asked how programmes could be made more sustainable, the Regional Director said that UNICEF would continue to support capacity-building of national counterparts, as exemplified by the secondment of a UNICEF education adviser to the Ministry of Education.

53. The representative of **Viet Nam** expressed appreciation to UNICEF, which was the first United Nations agency to support to children and women in Viet Nam, for its work during 30 years of cooperation. Other speakers cited the positive efforts of UNICEF towards sustainable development, protection of the rights of children, support for prevention of child injuries, efforts in fighting HIV/AIDS, cooperation with NGOs in nutrition and child protection, and an increased focus on policy and dialogue with the Government. The joint strategy of the United Nations agencies through the UNDAF was commended. It was suggested that the CPD refer to the Millennium Development Goals, alignment with national goals and the country programme's contribution to the PRS. Clarification was sought on the discrepancies between national data sources and those used by UNICEF.

South Asia

54. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPD for Bangladesh (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.12), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

55. The representative of **Bangladesh** said that the Millennium Development Goals for child mortality could be met with a package of interventions, including expanded education for females, effective family planning programmes that motivated women to delay child-bearing and expanded immunization coverage. Efforts must be redoubled to eradicate arsenic contamination of drinking water from tube-wells installed with the support of UNICEF. He welcomed the partnership with UNICEF in advocacy and communication on HIV/AIDS, focusing on adolescents, and called for greater emphasis on strengthening the family. Other delegations commended the inclusion of HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting issue, although one speaker asked about coordination among agencies, particularly with UNAIDS. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF would continue to work closely with civil society and other agencies, particularly in reaching adolescents.

56. A speaker said that UNICEF remained a non-pool funder of the health SWAp, expressed concern that UNICEF support to the health sector would parallel the Health and Nutrition Programme Strategic Plan (HNPSP) and said that results achieved through the country programme should be considered within the overall results framework of the HNPSP. The speaker sought clarification about monitoring of programmes under the UNDAF, and said that joint programming would be particularly relevant in the area of safe motherhood with WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and in the area of adolescence with UNFPA. The Regional Director said that the United Nations country team created a framework for monitoring and evaluation with indicators, but this was evolving. Joint programming was being discussed in areas of common interest such as marginalized populations and urban slums.

57. Asked what UNICEF had done to make the current programme sustainable while developing national capacities, the Regional Director said that UNICEF was not implementing specific projects but providing support to the Government at national and local levels.

The Americas and the Caribbean

58. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPD for Peru (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.6), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

59. The representative of **Peru** said that the proposed country programme would aid the Government in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; was framed within the decentralization process; was based on human rights; integrated a gender perspective; and focused on the areas of the Andes, the Amazon and the marginal urban areas.

60. Various speakers highlighted the significant progress in child survival, particularly reducing infant mortality; praised the human rights approach of the CPD and the role of UNICEF in advocating for the rights of the excluded; congratulated UNICEF for its efforts in bilingual education and education in the Amazon region; commended the alignment of the programme with decentralization, the UNDAF, the national poverty-reduction plan and the *Acuerdo Nacional* (national accord); expressed satisfaction with the fact that the entire United Nations country

team had adopted *DevInfo* as a common standard; expressed concern about the high index of poverty; highlighted the need for HIV/AIDS prevention; warned against too much dispersal of resources; and stressed the need to work closely with the communities affected by violence to promote a culture of peace.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

61. The Executive Board had before it the draft CPDs for Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.13, E/ICEF/2005/P/L.14 and Corr.1, and E/ICEF/2005/P/L.15-E/ICEF/2005/P/L.19), which were introduced by the Regional Director.

62. The representative of **Albania** emphasized that the Government attached great importance to the protection of child rights, was in the process of ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and showed willingness to develop a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Children. Another speaker said that attention should be given to the situation of Roma children and to strengthening the decentralization process. The Regional Director said that UNICEF would work with other United Nations agencies in Kukas, in the northern part of the country, to build local capacities in planning, service delivery and monitoring of rights, with special attention to the most disadvantaged groups.

63. The representative of **Belarus** said that cooperation with UNICEF could be enhanced by strengthening the UNICEF presence in the country. He said the CPD required 'some fine-tuning' of statistical data and more attention had to be given to trafficking, assistance to disabled children, the prevention of injuries and support to young people affected by the Chernobyl disaster. He called for an increased level of non-core resources for the new country programme. Another speaker encouraged the Government to support NGOs, especially local ones, in responding to the needs of children. The Regional Director said that discussions with national counterparts to finalize the CPD had already started.

64. The delegate of **Bulgaria** welcomed the strengthened capacity of UNICEF in the country and said that the new country programme would further the improvement of national policies and programmes for children, particularly in the areas of social services, advocacy, child rights monitoring and young people's development and protection. In response to a request for more information on programme implementation and budget allocation, the Regional Director suggested a bilateral discussion.

65. On the draft CPD for **Georgia**, a delegation commended the United Nations country team, including UNICEF, on its professionalism and well-coordinated work done with all partners in the country. The draft CPD was realistic and fully aligned with the UNDAF priorities.

66. The representative of the **Russian Federation** expressed his support for the draft CPD, and emphasized the importance of continued efforts by UNICEF in the Northern Caucasus, focusing on education, restoration of schools and psychosocial rehabilitation of children. He stressed the need to enhance cooperation with UNICEF in helping children affected by the Chernobyl accident; data collection and an improved knowledge base on trends affecting children, both at the national and subnational levels; and developing partnerships between the country office and line

ministries, local authorities, academic centres and the private sector in order to mobilize more national resources for children. He welcomed the UNICEF initiative to mobilize the private sector to support children's concerns. The Regional Director said that all the partnerships developed in the context of the new programme had been established within the framework of cooperation discussed with the Government. She stressed that a decentralized approach combined with programmatic rigour would ensure the most efficient and effective use of UNICEF resources.

67. The representative of **Turkey** acknowledged the long-term efforts of UNICEF in supporting Turkish children, starting from free milk in schools in the early 1950s to the current rights-based approach for children, young people and women. She expressed appreciation for the joint efforts of the country office, line ministries and institutions in the preparation of the draft CPD.

68. Expressing his Government's support for the draft CPD, the representative of **Ukraine** called for adequate resources for the protection of children and young people from HIV/AIDS. The issue of children affected by the Chernobyl tragedy needed to be reflected in the revised CPD, and trafficking of children and young women should be addressed by multilateral efforts both at the national and international levels. The Regional Director relied that the Chernobyl issue would be better reflected in the revised CPD and that more resources had been mobilized for HIV/AIDS.

Middle East and North Africa

69. The Executive Board had before it the draft area programme document (APD) for **Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Syrian Arab Republic** (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.20), which was introduced by the Regional Director.

70. A number of delegates commended UNICEF for increasing cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and reaffirmed support for the work of UNICEF in the region, particularly in ECD and psychosocial health programmes.

71. On the draft APD, it was suggested that: (a) additional resources be given to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and neighbouring countries; (b) the document clarify that the major partner of UNICEF in working with Palestinian refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic is the General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees and note the achievements of this partnership; (c) the adult HIV prevalence rate in Palestinian refugee camps in that country be verified and the source noted, and emphasis should be given to playgrounds and environmental sanitation in the camps; (d) the document include more disaggregated data, especially on girls' education, as well as more gender analysis; (e) the importance of the universality of human rights, irrespective of ethnicity, emphasized; and (f) efforts for the protection and health of young children and adolescents be strengthened.

72. Speakers also requested information on: (a) the impact of microcredit schemes on the household income of women living in camps in Lebanon; (b) the United Nations common desk assessment of the West Bank and Gaza; (c) modalities to further strengthen programme planning and monitoring, especially in light of lessons learned from the 2004-2005 area programme; (d) means to obtain better data

from national and subnational information systems; (e) ways to enhance the capacity of line ministries to incorporate a child rights approach into policy development, especially regarding sector-wide and sector-investment programmes; and (f) the availability of figures on income for refugees, separated from figures on gross national income per capita.

73. The Regional Director praised the Medium-Term Development Plan devised by the Ministry of Planning of the Palestinian Authority as a framework for progress. Few funds were available to UNICEF in the neighbouring countries for Palestinian refugee programmes. There were sensitivities and difficulties involved in obtaining income figures for refugees but it would be possible to consult UNRWA, which has published such figures in two countries.

74. See chapter III, decision 2005/4 for the decision adopted by the Board on the draft CPDs.

Report by Regional Director for Europe

75. The Regional Director said that with over 6 million individual donors, major alliances in the private sector and the support of tens of thousands of volunteers, the National Committees mobilized over one third of UNICEF income and advocated for child rights. Some National Committees participated in the submission of national reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Private sector fund-raising remained the primary purpose of the Committees, which in 2004 contributed $566 million to UNICEF, 15 per cent more than in 2003 and the highest amount ever. The National Committees had been swift, focused and crucial to the UNICEF response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, raising nearly two thirds of the $500 million received by UNICEF. Globally, only the Red Cross raised more funds from the private sector.

Recommendation for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

Recommendation for additional other resources for approved country programmes

76. The Executive Board had before it a recommendation for approval of additional regular resources for approved country programmes (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.21) and a recommendation for approval of additional other resources for approved country programmes (E/ICEF/2005/P/L.22). Both recommendations were introduced by the Director, Programme Division and approved by the Executive Board without comment (see chapter III, decisions 2005/5 and 2005/6).

D. Progress report on implementation of decision 2002/4 on approval of country programmes

77. The progress report (E/ICEF/2005/8) was introduced by the Chief, Strategic Planning and Programme Guidance, Division of Policy and Planning. Speakers expressed their continued support for the modified procedures for the consideration and approval of CPDs adopted by the Executive Board in 2002. A delegation emphasized the need for country programmes to contain well-formulated results

based on long-term strategies, measurable targets and time-bound goals, and to indicate the contribution of UNICEF to the achievement of national priorities and internationally agreed goals.

78. The secretariat was asked if it was possible to provide a draft summary results matrix with the draft CPD as well as reporting on past expenditures, including for emergency response, and proposed budgets by MTSP category. The secretariat responded that it would be difficult to provide a draft results matrix in time for the annual session; the earlier submission which might affect quality standards and the country-level consultation process.

79. In response to another question, the secretariat said that the timing of country programme submissions to the Executive Boards was being discussed by the UNDG Executive Committee agencies. While UNICEF found the present timetable acceptable, other agencies preferred submitting draft CPDs at the second regular session in September. A delegation requested the secretariat to continue consultations with the other Executive Committee agencies and to prepare common proposals for any changes in the approval process and further harmonization.

80. See chapter III, decision 2005/9 for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.

E. Report on internal audit activities in 2004

81. The Executive Board had before it the report on internal audit activities in 2004 (E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.2), which was introduced by the Director, Office of Internal Audit (OIA). Mr. Toshiyuki Niwa, Deputy Executive Director, provided a statement in response to the report.

82. Delegations expressed appreciation for the organization's professional approach to internal audit, and the transparent and candid report. Three members took note of the work of OIA with UNDG agencies on harmonization of policies and procedures.

83. In response to a comment that OIA should better disseminate audit findings to contribute to organizational learning, the Director said that reporting facilities had been developed that were easily accessible by country offices and management. OIA also prepared summary reports, which helped to identify systemic causes and indicated necessary improvements in policies and procedures. One speaker suggested that the use of the self-assessment tools prepared by OIA be encouraged to help reduce the number of unsatisfactory ratings in country offices. Another speaker queried whether the endorsement of audit guidelines by division directors compromised the independence of the audit process and investigations. The Director explained that audit guidelines were developed in cooperation with headquarters divisions to ensure that auditors performed the correct and relevant tests based on existing procedures. Investigations were performed separately.

84. Several members, while noting overall satisfactory ratings, expressed concern about country offices' weaknesses in financial and programme management, cash assistance and supply operations. Some speakers said that oversight by regional offices and global awareness of basic programming practices could be improved; requested information on the actions undertaken by management; and called for urgency in addressing outstanding and persistent audit observations.

85. The Deputy Executive Director noted that UNICEF intentionally set itself very demanding performance standards and that its audit function was fully transparent to the United Nations Board of Auditors. An audit report was not a management scorecard. Rather, it acted as an early warning system that identified and assessed potential risks. An unsatisfactory rating did not necessarily indicate failure, mismanagement or fraud.

86. He said that overall compliance with audit recommendations was very high. Management aimed to address the underlying and often systemic causes, which might have to be addressed through a clearer assignment of accountabilities and better training programmes. For example, the Division of Finance and Administrative Management (DFAM) had placed financial and administrative reference documentation on an easily searchable website, had incorporated financial issues into the basic programme process training and made training courses available over the Intranet. DFAM staff increasingly participated in regional and global workshops of operations staff and in country visits.

87. In addition, the Supply Division had issued new supply planning directives, developed guidelines to strengthen end-use monitoring and evaluation of supplies, and helped to improve ProMS to better assist supply planning. In the area of basic programme management controls, about 60 per cent of the audit recommendations had been closed, and there was agreement on how to resolve the remaining open recommendations. The distribution of accountabilities was being discussed, and the reporting on key performance indicators envisaged in the MTSP 2006-2009 would further strengthen oversight. Management had initiated a review to simplify the sometimes complex internal business processes, and had proposed to assess managers' track records on audit findings when considering reassignments.

88. The Executive Board took note of the report.

F. Child protection: oral report

89. The report, presented by the Chief of Child Protection, highlighted the relevance of child protection to the Millennium Development Goals and the need to strengthen national child protection systems, community involvement and partnerships. It explained the protective environment framework and the importance of investing in child protection long term.

90. Delegations said that the leadership role played by UNICEF helped to ensure that child protection issues were reflected in CCAs, UNDAFs, PRSs, and SWAps. Other delegations raised concerns about resource allocation and suggested the strengthening of staff capacities for child protection. More information was requested on the protective environment framework and for examples of its successful application.

91. Speakers also addressed the importance of analysing child protection interventions, lessons learned, best practices, evaluations and organizational learning; the need for better integration of gender; the crucial role of partnerships, in particular with NGOs and civil society; the importance of support for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and national consultations; the importance of child protection as a focus area; the need to amplify the voices of children; the importance of psychosocial support for children whose rights to

protection are violated, including more guidance at the operational level; the need to make child protection a priority in emergency situations; the key role of prevention; the importance of education, including issues of quality and content; and the need to address the increase in violence against children.

92. The secretariat cited the example of the tsunami response to illustrate the high priority given to psychosocial support in emergencies and to partnerships. The "Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children" and common guidelines on psychosocial work being prepared within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee were good examples of collaboration and progress. Responding to a question on how to take a more strategic approach to child protection, the Chief cited the example of a recent mid-term review in Morocco that evaluated child protection in terms of the protective environment framework. This led to a reorientation of the programme and a systematic examination of what works. UNICEF also planned to conduct a meta-evaluation of all internal and external evaluations addressing child protection.

G. HIV/AIDS: oral report

93. The report, presented by the Senior Adviser for HIV/AIDS, focused on the changing role of UNICEF within the HIV/AIDS landscape, the programmatic challenges faced by the organization, including within the framework of UNAIDS, strategies for scaling-up and responses to children affected by the pandemic.

94. Delegations expressed support for the work of UNICEF in this area, particularly the focus on HIV/AIDS and its key results included in the draft MTSP for 2006-2009. In addition, speakers welcomed the increased attention paid to the "three ones" principle; the joint work on the 16 rapid assessments and action plans for national responses to children; and the strengthened collaboration with UNHCR. The Global Campaign on Children and AIDS would be instrumental in advocating and mobilizing resources for children.

95. A delegation said that there should be greater focus on abstinence, while others said that sexual and reproductive health should be more explicitly included in the MTSP. It was also said that UNICEF should support both short- and long-term strategies in response to HIV/AIDS; promote the inclusion of HIV/AIDS in development tools such as the PRSPs, SWAps and national budgets; and increase expenditure on HIV/AIDS.

H. UNICEF health and nutrition strategy: oral report

96. The Chiefs of the Health and Nutrition Sections presented the rationale, process, guiding principles and expected results of a joint health and nutrition strategy to be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the first regular session of 2006. The current individual strategies were approved by the Board over a decade ago.

97. The strategy, which will articulate the UNICEF contribution to the Millennium Development Goals related to health and nutrition, will be guided by six principles: (a) result-oriented and accountability-based partnerships with shared goals using, as appropriate, joint programming and policies under national leadership; (b) selection

of evidence-based, situation-specific and high-impact health and nutrition interventions; (c) linking the scaling-up of proven interventions to the strengthening of health and nutrition systems, through more effective national capacity-building; (d) a rights-based approach that aims at reaching the unreached; (e) working at all levels to develop appropriate linkages between international action and national policies; (f) a life-cycle approach which underscores the need to ensure a continuum of care from pregnancy through childhood.

98. Delegations expressed support for the proposed strategy, which they said provided a valuable opportunity for UNICEF to reassert its traditionally important role in health and nutrition. UNICEF was urged to take the lead in nutrition, particularly nutrition assessments and breastfeeding. UNICEF was also urged to ensure national ownership and to address the issues of national capacity-building, human resource mobilization and training for UNICEF staff. The strategy should explicitly state the importance of partnerships and take into account all relevant health- and nutrition-related global policies, strategies and resolutions. It should clearly articulate support to national plans, to strengthening of health systems and to the development of local capacities and resources. Due emphasis must be given to maternal mortality reduction, sexual and reproductive health and newborn care, as well as to children over five years of age and adolescents.

99. UNICEF was urged to scale up such interventions as the Accelerated Child Survival and Development programme and to avoid vertical approaches. Immunization should not be a stand-alone programme as this could lead to fragmented efforts in terms of services. UNICEF was urged to seek sufficient resources for young child feeding in partnership with organizations working in this area. Speakers expressed concern that joining the health and nutrition strategies might run the risk of decreasing resources for both areas, which need an increased allocation of regular resources.

100. The secretariat said that these important issues would be emphasized in the final strategy. A balance would be struck between 'quick-wins' and a more systematic approach. UNICEF agreed completely about the need to support country-led efforts and to advocate with Governments to increase budgetary allocations.

I. UNICEF/WHO Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS)

101. The Executive Board had before it a note by the secretariat (E/ICEF/2005/9) and a document that had been submitted to the fifty-eighth World Health Assembly (WHO document A58/12). The reports were introduced by the Director, Supply Division, and the Chief of the Health Section.

102. Delegations welcomed the GIVS, in particular the focus on reaching the under-served, the less fragmented approach to strengthening immunization systems and the linkage with other health interventions. Speakers commended the collaborative process between UNICEF, WHO and their partners in developing the GIVS. The challenge will be in financing GIVS and ensuring linkages with other efforts. Several delegations requested clarification about the criteria used by WHO and UNICEF for the introduction of new vaccines, adding that new vaccines must be made available to all children at an affordable price. A delegation recommended that the MTSP be updated to reflect the goals of the GIVS, saying that the success of the

GIVS was its setting of goals for immunization coverage and reduction of specific diseases.

103. The secretariat said that the GIVS focused on using existing systems, building on infrastructures established by accelerated diseases control programmes, and maximizing linkage with other interventions. It would also give priority to strengthening of health systems. The important role of WHO regarding effectiveness studies and pre-qualification of new vaccines was pointed out and the fact that decisions on the introduction of new vaccines are country driven. Demand creation and long-term financing would give manufacturers incentive to produce new vaccines and reduce costs. More investment in immunization was needed, particularly through new financing mechanisms.

104. See chapter III, decision 2005/ 7 for the decision adopted by the Executive Board.

J. UNICEF and post-conflict transition: oral report

105. The Deputy Director, Programme Division, reported on the work of UNICEF in post-conflict and post-disaster transition since the last oral report presented to the Board at the first regular session of 2004. A discussion paper to be presented to the Board at the first regular session of 2006 would outline the medium- and long-term strategy of UNICEF for countries in transition and the plans to integrate transition work throughout the organization's policies and operations.

106. Delegations welcomed the focus on transition at both the operational and strategic policy levels, particularly in the draft MTSP. UNICEF was uniquely placed to address transition, as it was often present before, during and after a crisis situation, as in the Sudan and the tsunami-affected countries. The comparative advantage of UNICEF was its ability to ensure national ownership in reconstruction and rehabilitation through already-established contacts with government and civil society. Successful transition depended on coordination among all actors, including Governments, the United Nations, the international financial institutions (IFIs) and donors.

107. A speaker, on behalf of a regional group, said that strategic management of the post-conflict period was fundamental to recovery. The group supported the work of UNICEF in disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and their psychosocial support. In education, UNICEF should focus more on diversified informal education, including vocational training, as a crucial means of reintegration. Another delegation suggested that the practice of increasing partnerships with NGOs in emergency assistance be used in reconstruction as well.

108. Clarification was sought on the coherence of the work of UNICEF in post-crisis transition with the role of the Secretary-General's recently proposed Peace-building Commission. The secretariat responded that UNICEF work in this area would be compatible with whatever new structure emerged.

109. Asked for an update on the resource mobilization mechanism for transition and assurance that the World Bank was involved in all stages of the transition, the secretariat confirmed that mechanisms such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan and the Consolidated Appeals Process were instrumental in securing timely resources for early-recovery programming in transition. UNICEF was working with

other agencies to develop a consolidated position on participation in the World Bank-managed Multi-Donor Trust Funds. UNICEF would continue to strengthen its cooperation with the World Bank and had collaborated with IFIs in every transition situation. A World Bank team leader was involved in all stages of post-crisis joint needs assessments.

110. Responding to a comment about strengthening the roles of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Resident Coordinator and United Nations country teams, the secretariat said that UNICEF supported an enhanced role for the Resident Coordinator and the strong participation of country teams, and would continue to collaborate with United Nations partners. Another speaker stressed that natural-disaster recovery was also part of the process from relief to recovery.

K. UNICEF follow-up to General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: oral report

111. The Director of the Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations highlighted a number of specific actions already taken since adoption of the General Assembly resolution, as well as ongoing work. These included strengthening national ownership and participation, partnership and national capacity-building; continuation of United Nations reform, including strengthening of the resident coordinator system, development of joint office models, results matrices and accountabilities, and innovative funding mechanisms; further simplification to complement harmonization efforts; and establishment of guidelines, benchmarks and targets.

112. UNICEF, working in the UNDG Executive Committee, had established its more specific implementation plan focusing on: capacity building; reducing transaction costs and increasing efficiency; greater coherence of activities within the context of the CCA/UNDAF, the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country team; strengthening the evaluation function; increased emphasis on gender mainstreaming; and keeping the inter-governmental process informed and engaged. The UNDG work plan will be shared with delegations at the upcoming session of the Economic and Social Council as part of the UNDG Executive Committee Issues Paper.

113. Delegations said that the report reflected the commitment of UNICEF to reform. Speakers expressed support for the senior-level task force that had been established by UNICEF to strengthen internal support for reform activities, and the secretariat was asked to provide regular updates on its work.

114. Some delegations noted that the background paper to this report did not address gender mainstreaming. Delegations expressed support for the important contribution UNICEF is making to system-wide collaboration on evaluation, and hoped that it will lead to joint inter-agency evaluations of UNDAF achievements, in full partnership with programme countries.

115. UNICEF was asked to elaborate on its plans to provide further support to the resident coordinator system, joint programmes at the country level both within and

outside the United Nations family, and capacity-building, particularly South-South collaboration. Delegates stressed the importance of national ownership of development programmes, the CCA/UNDAF process and activities undertaken during the transition from relief to development, and coordination of external assistance by the recipient Government. In the context of the implementation of the TCPR, development assistance provided by the United Nations system must support the achievement of national priorities, even if they differed from the Millennium Development Goals.

116. The secretariat said that the comments made would be fully reflected in the next Executive Director's report to the Economic and Social Council, to be presented to the Board at the first regular session of 2006.

L. Reports on field visits

117. The report on the field visit of Executive Board members to Ethiopia (E/ICEF/2005/CRP.5) was introduced by the Rapporteur, Ms. Jane Asani-Ndelemani, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations. The team commended UNICEF for its work facing challenges that included humanitarian emergencies, HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, gender inequality and high school drop-out rates. She also praised the Government for its focus on emergency prevention and long-term development rather than on mere emergency response. Citing the "tremendous experience gained" from the visit, she recommended a continuation of such field visits.

118. The representative of Ethiopia said that Ethiopia must receive more international assistance as it made the transition from emergencies to long-term development. The one-month delay mentioned in the field trip report in launching the safety net programme should not deter the international community from supporting that important programme. He commended UNICEF for its increasing flexibility and speedy implementation of programmes.

119. The report on the **joint field visit to Azerbaijan** (E/ICEF/2005/CRP.6) was introduced by the Rapporteur, Mr Carlos Enrique García González, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador. He said that the visit sought to understand how the joint work of the four agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP) could contribute to and complement the work of the Government to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

120. As a country in transition, Azerbaijan faced political, economic and social challenges, which could be overcome through improved joint efforts of the Government and civil society, with the support of the international community. The involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral partners and civil society in this process could also be strengthened. The country had seen strong economic growth, largely because of the sale of petroleum products, and it was important that these gains be disseminated throughout the society. The mission was satisfied to see that the Millennium Development Goals were being complemented by national goals in the area of good governance. Azerbaijan had a unique opportunity to overcome poverty and to meet the goals by 2015, and the country team could play a more strategic role in terms of political dialogue and strategic support.

121. The representative of Azerbaijan expressed appreciation for the joint visit, which allowed participants to assess the situation on the ground, to detect existing problems and obstacles and to identify the country's needs and priorities. He commended the country team for its work, and highlighted the Government's effective cooperation with UNICEF in particular. His Government supported the report's emphasis on joint programming, coordination and inter-agency cooperation. He highlighted the main finding of the mission: that despite positive trends, the economy of Azerbaijan was still in transition and needed the continued support of the international community.

122. A speaker said that during the joint field visit, participants saw excellent coordination among the staff of the various agencies working under the Resident Coordinator, who was instrumental in enhancing dialogue with national policy makers. Azerbaijan had launched a 10-year PRSP aligned with the Millennium Development Goals, and the United Nations was providing support through technical assistance and building national capacities. There were opportunities for the United Nations and the Government to address such issues as accelerating the process of social reform already under way, lowering infant and child mortality rates, moving from institutional to parental care for children in need of protection, addressing the hardships faced by IDPs and increasing the level of awareness of HIV among the general population.

123. The representative of the Russian Federation hoped that the findings of the mission would not only contribute to improved relations between the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations as a whole, but also contribute to the country's social and economic development. However, as a participant in the mission, his Government regretted that it was not satisfied with the process used for finalizing the report. The process had not been transparent or constructive, deadlines had not been provided for the submission of comments and the process for the so-called "silent agreement" had been unsatisfactory. The latest corrections to the draft had been made without the agreement of the participants.

124. As a co-chair of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Russian Federation believed in the importance of constructive political cooperation by the United Nations in settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, taking into account the principle of territorial integrity and other important principles of the United Nations and the OSCE. It was important that United Nations documents dealing directly or indirectly with the issue use agreed formulations. Unfortunately, in a number of places in the report, the approach had not been respected. The secretariat bore particular responsibility for these problems, as it was responsible for ensuring that only duly agreed documents were brought to the Board for its approval.

125. The representative of Armenia expressed serious concern over the use of terminology in the report, particularly in paragraph 39, which was not acceptable language in the OSCE, the forum that was dealing directly with the resolution of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, or the relevant Security Council resolutions. The use of politically charged and incorrect terminology in documents that do not deal with actual conflict resolution processes is dangerous and could negatively impact the negotiation process. Her delegation requested that the report be brought in line with the accepted United Nations language.

126. The representative of Azerbaijan said that UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA were not subsidiary organs of the OSCE, and all United Nations agencies had to use the language approved by the Security Council. He invited members of the Board to use that language, which the Russian Federation had approved.

127. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the Security Council resolution in question had been adopted prior to the establishment of the Minsk Group. The Executive Board was not the proper forum for this political discussion.

128. Several other delegations stressed that the Executive Board was not a political forum, and said that the importance of the field visits was being diminished by a political discussion.

129. The President also reminded delegations that the Executive Board was not a political forum. The Bureau had discussed the matter extensively and had agreed that the Board should take note of all comments, but would not take any decision on any field visits. The reports of the field visits were for information only. Clearly, the interested parties had different views, which would be reflected in the record of the meeting. The same report had already been submitted to the Executive Board of WFP, and had been accepted with the full agreement of all members.

M. Address by the President of the UNICEF Global Staff Association

130. The new Chairperson of the Global Staff Association (GSA) said that he was the first head of the GSA who was a national staff member and worked in the field. He went on to report on the recent annual general meeting of the GSA, during which staff representatives had identified concerns and ways to improve UNICEF. More clarity was needed on United Nations reform and staff should be fully involved. Staff, especially those who are locally recruited and who commonly earn far less than their counterparts in other agencies, should have appropriate salaries. The claims process for the Medical Insurance Plan, used by field offices, should be outsourced to ensure the confidentiality of participants. UNICEF had taken a good step in working with the Ombudsperson Office to deal with staff grievances. The *Personal and Professional Development* (P2D) training has helped staff take more control of their futures but UNICEF should not abdicate its responsibility to promote staff development. Finally, merit and competence must be the criteria for hiring and promoting staff, including national staff, who commonly stagnate in their careers.

N. Other matters

Report on the work of the Innocenti Research Centre

131. The Director of the Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) reviewed the Centre's programme for 2006-2008, which would be presented to the Board at the second regular session in September. Mandated to undertake field-driven, action-oriented research, the IRC contributed to the advocacy, policy formulation and programme development of UNICEF. A recent evaluation stressed the centrality of the Centre's agenda to UNICEF, and found that the Centre also plays an important role in advancing the policy agenda on behalf of children. The evaluation underscored the importance of resources in maintaining the Centre's academic and intellectual

freedom, in sustaining a research agenda, in enhancing the research culture of UNICEF and in contributing to the implementation of the MTSP for 2006-2009. The next programme would focus on child poverty, the allocation of resources for children, and migration and children; implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and special protection concerns, among them trafficking, violence and armed conflict.

O. Closing statements

132. The Executive Director thanked Mr. Joe Judd, Director of Programme Division, who would soon retire after nearly 29 years of service to UNICEF. She appreciated the Board's agreement with key elements of the draft MTSP for 2006-2009 and acknowledged members' calls for more accountability. UNICEF would increase its efforts to measure results and support of national capacity development, collaboration with other United Nations agencies and country, regional and global partnerships.

133. The President praised the spirit of cooperation and compromise that characterized the session, which had resulted in a number of significant decisions.

III. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board

2005/4. Draft country programme documents

The Executive Board

Approves the aggregate indicative budgets for the following country programmes of cooperation:

Region/country	*Period*	*Regular resources*		*Other resources*		*Document E/ICEF/2005/*
Eastern and Southern Africa						
Namibia	2006-2010	3 335 000		21 665 000		P/L.1 and Corr.1
Uganda	2006-2010	42 880 000		40 000 000		P/L.2
West and Central Africa						
Burkina Faso	2006-2010	33 745 000		40 500 000		P/L.3
Ghana	2006-2010	18 600 000		56 400 000		P/L.4
Liberia	2006	2 826 000		5 820 000		P/L.5
Americas and Caribbean						
Peru	2006-2010	4 500 000		18 700 000		P/L.6
East Asia and the Pacific						
Cambodia	2006-2010	23 550 000		68 970 000		P/L.7
China	2006-2010	61 035 000		40 000 000		P/L.8
Myanmar	2006-2010	41 130 000		65 000 000		P/L.9
Timor-Leste	2006-2007	2 044 000		13 000 000		P/L.10 and Corr.1
Viet Nam	2006-2010	20 000 000		63 800 000		P/L.11
South Asia						
Bangladesh	2006-2010	60 490 000		210 000 000		P/L.12

CEE, CIS and Baltic States						
Albania	2006-2010	3 375 000		12 000 000		P/L.13
Belarus	2006-2010	3 260 000		2 140 000		P/L.14 and Corr.1
Bulgaria	2006-2009	2 464 000		2 500 000		P/L.15
Georgia	2006-2010	3 370 000		6 000 000		P/L.16
Russian Federation	2006-2010	4 805 000		21 000 000		P/L.17
Turkey	2006-2010	5 045 000		25 000 000		P/L.18
Ukraine	2006-2010	4 775 000		7 520 000		P/L.19
Middle East and North Africa						
Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syrian Arab Republic	2006-2007	4 000 000		24 240 000		P/L.20

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2005/5. Additional regular resources for approved country programmes

The Executive Board

Approves a total of $80,397,731 in regular resources to fund the approved country programmes of 54 countries (shown in tables 1 and 2 below) for 2005 and for 2006, whose regular resources planning levels, based on the modified allocation system and estimated global levels of programmable regular resources, are higher than the balance of approved funds for these countries:

Table 1. Additional regular resources (RR) for 2005
(In United States dollars)

Region/country	*Document E/ICEF/*	*Programme duration*	*2005 RR Planning Level*	*2005 RR Balance*	*Additional 2005 RR to be approved*
			(A)	**(B)**	**(A-B)**
West and Central Africa					
Burkina Faso	2000/P/L.4/Add.1	2001-2005	6,749,000	2,759,165	3,989,835
Cape Verde	2004/P/L.5	2005	660,000	611,000	49,000
Chad	2000/P/L.5/Add.1	2001-2005	3,689,000	2,636,914	1,052,086
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	2002/P/L.26	2003-2005	21,929,000	14,597,211	7,331,789
Ghana	2000/P/L.6/Add.1	2001-2005	3,718,000	3,467,258	250,742
Liberia	2002/P/L.27	2003-2005	2,826,000	1,096,536	1,729,464
Eastern and Southern Africa					
Namibia	2001/P/L.6/Add.1	2002-2005	667,000	634,010	32,990
Rwanda[1]	2000/P/L.1/Add.1	2001-2006	4,499,000	3,834,098	664,902
Swaziland	2000/P/L.2/Add.1	2001-2005	751,000	599,574	151,426
Uganda	2000/P/L.3/Add.1	2001-2005	8,576,000	4,242,969	4,333,031
South Asia					
Afghanistan	2002/P/L.31	2003-2005	13,799,000	7,322,176	6,476,824
East Asia and the Pacific					
Cambodia	2000/P/L.9/Add.1	2001-2005	4,710,000	3,375,893	1,334,107
China	2000/P/L.10/Add.1	2001-2005	12,207,000	11,949,373	257,627
Indonesia	2000/P/L.11/Add.1	2001-2005	5,300,000	4,490,042	809,958
Myanmar	2000/P/L.12/Add.1	2001-2005	8,226,000	6,497,360	1,728,640
Timor-Leste	2002/P/L.30	2003-2005	1,022,000	720,543	301,457

[1] Rwanda requires approval for additional RR for both 2005 and 2006 ($664,902 and $4,499,000 respectively) and is therefo included in both tables.

Middle East and North Africa					
Palestinian children and women in Jordan	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	225,000	200,000	25,000
Palestinian children and women in Lebanon	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	400,000	350,000	50,000
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	950,000	850,000	100,000
Palestinian children and women in the Syrian Arab Rep.	2003/P/L.13	2004-2005	225,000	200,000	25,000
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States					
Belarus	2002/P/L.33	2003-2005	652,000	595,576	56,424
Russian Federation	2002/P/L.33	2003-2005	961,000	694,000	267,000
Turkey	2000/P/L.17/Add.1	2001-2005	1,009,000	846,000	163,000
Total			**103,750,000**	**72,569,699**	**31,180,301**

Table 2. Additional regular resources (RR) for 2006
(In United States dollars)

Region/country	*Document E/ICEF/*	*Programme duration*	*2006 RR Planning Level*	*2006 RR Balance*	*Additional 2006 RR to be approved*
			(A)	**(B)**	**(A-B)**
West and Central Africa					
Central African Republic	2001/P/L.10/Add.1	2002-2006	2,156,000	619,367	1,536,633
Equatorial Guinea	2001/P/L.11/Add.1	2002-2006	736,000	520,000	216,000
Gambia	2001/P/L.13/Add.1	2002-2006	971,000	330,165	640,835
Guinea	2001/P/L.14/Add.1	2002-2006	3,201,000	1,160,321	2,040,679
Guinea-Bissau[2]	2002/P/L.5/Add.1	2003-2007	1,495,000	1,354,000	1,636,000
Sao Tome and Principe	2001/P/L.16/Add.1	2002-2006	660,000	569,000	91,000
Senegal	2001/P/L.17/Add.1	2002-2006	3,009,000	733,269	2,275,731
Togo	2001/P/L.18/Add.1	2002-2006	2,063,000	1,233,664	829,336
Eastern and Southern Africa					
Eritrea	2001/P/L.1/Add.1	2002-2006	1,785,000	611,470	1,173,530
Ethiopia	2001/P/L.2/Add.1	2002-2006	21,772,000	10,867,569	10,904,431
Malawi	2001/P/L.4/Add.1	2002-2006	5,945,000	4,207,012	1,737,988
Rwanda	2000/P/L.1/Add.1	2001-2006	4,499,000	0	4,499,000
South Africa	2001/P/L.7/Add.1 and Corr.1	2002-2006	997,000	694,251	302,749
Tanzania, United Republic of	2001/P/L.8/Add.1	2002-2006	11,733,000	1,827,574	9,905,426
Zambia	2001/P/L.9/Add.1	2002-2006	4,686,000	2,835,422	1,850,578
Zimbabwe	2004/P/L.4	2005-2006	2,021,000	1,829,000	192,000
South Asia					
Bhutan	2001/P/L.38/Add.1	2002-2006	966,000	877,775	88,225
Nepal	2001/P/L.39/Add.1	2002-2006	5,000,000	4,389,205	610,795

[2] Guinea Bissau has a programme cycle 2003-2007, for which an additional RR allocation of $1,495,000 in 2007 is included in this total. The required approval for RR in 2006 is $141,000. When added to the required amount for 2007 ($1,495,000) the total amount requested for approval is $1,636,000 as shown in the table.

East Asia and the Pacific					
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	2001/P/L.35/Add.1	2002-2006	1,787,000	1,388,558	398,442
Mongolia	2001/P/L.36/Add.1	2002-2006	907,000	707,602	199,398
Thailand	2001/P/L.37/Add.1	2002-2006	1,000,000	956,000	44,000
Middle East and North Africa					
Egypt	2001/P/L.43/Add.1	2002-2006	2,639,000	397,329	2,241,671
Iraq	2001/P/L.71	2005-2006	2,014,000	1,858,000	156,000
Sudan	2001/P/L.46/Add.1	2002-2006	6,169,000	3,455,306	2,713,694
Yemen	2001/P/L.49/Add.1	2002-2006	4,651,000	3,962,213	688,787
Americas and the Caribbean					
Belize	2001/P/L.19/Add.1	2002-2006	612,000	594,176	17,824
Brazil	2001/P/L.20/Add.1	2002-2006	840,000	576,000	264,000
Cuba	2001/P/L.23/Add.1	2002-2006	632,000	581,000	51,000
Haiti	2001/P/L.27/Add.1	2002-2006	2,749,000	1,221,725	1,527,275
Jamaica	2001/P/L.29/Add.1	2002-2006	633,000	587,758	45,242
Panama	2001/P/L.32/Add.1	2002-2006	400,000	213,492	186,508
Paraguay	2001/P/L.33/Add.1	2002-2006	746,000	593,347	152,653
Total			**99,474,000**	**51,751,570**	**49,217,430**
Grand total for 2005 and 2006 (Table 1 + Table 2)			**203,224,000**	**124,321,269**	**80,397,731**

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2005/6. Additional other resources for approved country programmes

The Executive Board

Approves the total of $371,031,000 in other resources for the approved country programmes for the 20 countries listed below, for the remaining periods of these programmes, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions:

Table. Proposed increases to other resources (OR) ceilings for approved country programmes (In thousands of United States dollars)

Region/country	*Document E/ICEF/*	*Programme duration*	*Approved OR ceiling*	*Additional OR to be approved*	*Total OR ceiling*
			(A)	**(B)**	**(A+B)**
West and Central Africa					
Burkina Faso	2000/P/L.4	2001-2005	19 867	6 551	26 418
Cameroon	2002/P/L.3/Add.1	2003-2007	8 000	6 000	14 000
Côte d'Ivoire	2002/P/L.4/Add.1	2003-2007	8 000	15 000	23 000
Liberia	2002/P/L.27	2003-2005	11 700	2 280	13 980
Mauritania	2000/P/L.7/Add.11	2003-2008	12 000	3 000	15 000
Nigeria	2001/P/L.15/Add.1	2002-2007	72 000	116 400	188 400
Sierra Leone	2003/P/L.8/Rev.1	2004-2007	16 000	4 000	20 000
Togo	2001/P/L.18/Add.1	2002-2006	4 000	2 000	6 000
Eastern and Southern Africa					
Botswana	2002/P/L.1/Add.1	2003-2007	7 900	3 500	11 400
Comoros	2002/P/L.2/Add.1	2003-2007	1 500	1 000	2 500
Ethiopia	2001/P/L. 2/Add.1	2002-2006	60 000	10 000	70 000
Malawi	2001/P/L. 4/Add.1	2002-2006	52 200	21 000	73 200
Zimbabwe	2004/P/L. 4	2005-2006	14 000	29 600	43 600
South Asia					
India	2002/P/L.12/Add.1	2003-2007	250 000	100 000	350 000
East Asia and the Pacific					
Timor-Leste	2002/P/L.30	2003-2005	9 000	8 000	17 000
Middle East and North Africa					
Egypt	2001/P/L.43/Add.1	2002-2006	25 000	27 500	52 500

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States					
Moldova	2001/P/L.41/Add.1	2002-2006	7 500	2 500	10 000
Americas and the Caribbean					
Haiti	2001/P/L.27	2002-2006	17 500	11 500	29 000
Panama	2001/P/L.32/Add.1	2002-2006	2 250	600	2 850
Paraguay	2001/P/L.33/Add.1	2002-2006	3 025	600	3 625
Total increase				**371 031**	

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2005/7. UNICEF/WHO Global Immunization Vision and Strategy

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on the draft immunization strategy (E/ICEF/2005/9 and WHO A58/12),

Alarmed that globally and in some regions immunization coverage has increased only marginally since the early 1990s, and that in 2003 more than 27 million children worldwide were not immunized during their first year of life;

Recognizing that each year 1.4 million children under five years of age die from diseases preventable by currently available vaccines;

Further recognizing that each year an additional 2.6 million children under five years of age die because of diseases potentially preventable by new vaccines;

Welcoming the achievements of the accelerated disease-control initiatives against poliomyelitis, measles, and maternal and neonatal tetanus in immunizing previously unreached populations, and *noting* that these initiatives have established extensive networks on which surveillance for other disease and health trends can be built or expanded;

Concerned that, owing to financial, structural and/or managerial constraints, national immunization programmes fail to reach all children and women eligible for immunization, underuse many existing vaccines, and are not widely introducing new vaccines;

Emphasizing the need for all countries to strive towards achieving the internationally agreed development goal in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of reducing by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five child mortality rate;

Recalling the target of the United Nations General Assembly's twenty-seventh special session on children (2002) to ensure full immunization of children under one year of age, with at least 90% coverage nationally, and at least 80% coverage in every district or equivalent administrative unit;

Having considered the draft global immunization vision and strategy,

1. *Welcomes* the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

2. *Urges* countries:

(a) to meet immunization targets expressed in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children;

(b) to adopt the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy as the framework for strengthening of national immunization programmes between 2006 and 2015, with the goal of achieving greater equity in access to immunization, of improving access to existing and future vaccines, and of extending the benefits of vaccination linked with other health interventions to age groups beyond infancy;

(c) to ensure that immunization remains a priority on the national health agenda, and is supported by systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, and long-term financial commitment;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), and other partners to provide support to Member States in implementation of the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

(b) to strengthen relations at global, regional and subregional levels with WHO, GAVI and other partners in order to mobilize the needed resources for countries to implement the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

(c) to report regularly to the Executive Board on progress towards achievement of global immunization targets.

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2005/8. Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director: results achieved for children in 2004 in support of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2002-2005, contained in document E/ICEF/2005/6;

2. *Recalls* its decision 2004/9 on the UNICEF evaluation function, which requests that key findings from evaluations of the thematic areas of the MTSP be presented and discussed at the Executive Board as and when these become available, and furthermore requests that they be fully integrated into the annual report of the Executive Director;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of results-based management to the fulfilment of the UNICEF mandate and to establishing and monitoring the UNICEF contribution to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the analytical content of her annual reports to the Executive Board to include both qualitative and quantitative measures of progress against the MTSP targets, with a discussion of progress made, challenges and constraints encountered, lessons learned and issues arising for consideration and guidance, while bearing in mind official limits on the overall length of the report.

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2005/9. Implementation of Executive Board decision 2002/4 on approval of country programmes

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and *underlining* that further steps need to be taken to harmonize programming cycles and to synchronize them as far as possible with the national programming instruments, in particular national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist;

1. *Takes note* of the review of the modified procedures for consideration and approval of proposals for country programmes of cooperation (E/ICEF/2005/8);

2. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of Executive Board decision 2002/4 on the approval of country programmes and therefore reconfirms the validity of the current approval procedure;

3. *Stresses* the need to ensure the quality and results orientation of country programme documents as well as their alignment with national priorities in the areas of competence of all agencies involved;

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a results matrix in UNICEF country programme documents and *requests* that, if possible, draft results matrices be made available, for information, with the draft country programme documents provided for the consideration of the Executive Board;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNICEF to present to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2006 a report elaborated jointly with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on possible options to further improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure, so as to decrease the time frame for developing and approving country programmes and to better synchronize them with the length of cycle of the respective national country programming instruments, bearing in mind the need to maintain the institutional integrity and organizational mandate of each agency.

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2005/10. Towards the elimination of violence against children and adolescents

The Executive Board

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 entitled "Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System",

Recalling also the Declaration and Plan of Action of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly entitled "A World Fit for Children" of 10 May 2002, which provides a framework for the protection of the child against violence and exploitation,

Taking note of the outcomes of all regional consultations in the context of the study of the Secretary General on violence against children,

Recognizing that violence against children and adolescents is a phenomenon that is affecting societies, including violence related to gang activities,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to support Member States in their efforts to combat violence against children and adolescents;

2. *Decides* to include an oral report on UNICEF activities on violence related to children and adolescents in conflict with the law, including gang activities, in the agenda of the annual session of 2006.

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